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Ovid *Metamorphoses* i. 192-98

“sunt mihi semidei, sunt, rustica numina, nymphae
 faunique satyrique et monticolae silvani;
 quos quoniam caeli nondum dignamur honore,
 quas dedimus, certe terras habitare sinamus.
 an satis, O superi, tutos fore creditis illos,
 cum mihi, qui fulmen, qui vos habeoque regoque,
 struxerit insidias notus feritate Lycaon?”

On these lines Haupt (Ehwald-Haupt, Berlin, 1903) contents himself with the comment “die Motivierung ist wohl Erfindung des Ovids.” His conjecture admits, I think, of easy confirmation. The transition passage in which the lines occur is admittedly a travesty of the Roman senate. Lines 190-91 have been noted as a commonplace of Roman political oratory; cf. Burmann, *ad loc.*, and Muretus in his comment on Cicero, Cat. ii. 5. 36-37. It seems fair to see in lines 192 ff. an ingenious adaptation of the traditional appeal to a Roman audience to rally to the defense of the *socii* who, though not endowed with citizenship, are entitled to protection. The best comment on the motivation of this passage would accordingly be another quotation from Cicero; cf. Manil. vi. 1-5, “Quare si propter socios nulla iniuria lacessiti maiores nostri cum Antiocho, cum Philippo, cum Aetolis, cum Poenis bella gesserunt, quanto vos studio convenit iniuriis provocatos sociorum salutem una cum imperii vestri dignitate defendere, praesertim cum de maximis vestris vectigalibus agatur?”

KEITH PRESTON